

## How to Request Agricultural Mediation

- Contact the Nevada Department of Agriculture at 775-684-5333 or the respective USDA agency.
- Ask for the form: "Request for Mediation."
- Complete, sign and return the form with a processing fee of \$25.00 to:  
Nevada Agricultural  
Mediation Service  
Nevada Department of  
Agriculture  
350 Capitol Hill Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502



*Nevada  
Department of  
Agriculture*

## *Nevada Agricultural Mediation Program*



*Nevada Department of  
Agriculture*

350 Capitol Hill Avenue  
Reno, NV 89502

Phone: 775-684-5333  
Fax: 775-882-5121



# *Agricultural Mediation Program*

The Nevada Agricultural Mediation Program helps agriculture producers, their lenders, and other persons directly affected by the actions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) resolve disputes. Through mediation, a trained, impartial person (mediator) helps participants review their conflicts, identify options, and agree on solutions. The process is voluntary and binding only if the parties can reach a mutual agreement.

Mediation is a valuable tool for settling disputes in many different USDA program areas, including:

- farm loans
- farm programs
- conservation programs
- wetland determinations
- rural water loan programs
- grazing on national forest system lands
- pesticides
- rural housing

In Nevada, agricultural mediation is administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture through a program certified annually by the USDA Farm Service Agency.

## *How Mediation Works*

Mediation can be requested by any affected party at any time, but it usually takes place after a USDA official advises the USDA customer that mediation is available before formal adverse action. Within a 30-day period from the issuance of an adverse letter, the USDA customer may request mediation or waive the opportunity to use the service.

It is not necessary that an adverse decision by a USDA agency be made prior to requesting mediation. In fact, mediation may be more successful if requested earlier while more options are still available.

Each party participating in mediation will be charged \$25.00 per hour for time spent in the mediation session. The fee has been set to cover a portion of the cost associated with the program and is not intended to exclude anyone from the process.

If mediation is requested, the Nevada Agricultural Mediation officials suggest steps that participants should take to prepare for the process. Mediation is confidential and the documents are not used for any other legal action against the participants.

Once a mediator is selected, all potential participants are advised that a mediation process

is underway. If a meeting is scheduled, the parties are informed of the time, place, and nature of the mediation process.

The initial mediation session will be conducted within 45 days of receipt of a completed application form by the Nevada Agricultural Mediation Program. A final report will be filed with all parties to the mediation within 75 days, as the entire process cannot extend for a longer period without consent of all parties.

Once an agreement is reached, the mediator makes sure that it is in writing, is signed, and made available to all participants. If an agreement is not reached, the case is closed, all parties are advised of the outcome, and all remain free to pursue other legal courses. Mediation does not favor one side or the other, but helps both consider their situation. The main idea is to provide a low-cost alternative to expensive, lengthy litigation or bankruptcy.

